background based on local history is a sound foundation for understanding and appreciation of how America became what it is today. As has often been said, we can only plan our future by a complete knowledge of our past.

We should like to include news of other historical societies, if you will send it to us. It would seem that all of us would profit by an interchange of ideas.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You will be glad to know that we have reached a total membership of 973. Our goal is 1,000—so let's have those proposals.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER
Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.
Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 MARCH, 1950 NUMBER 7

MONTPELIER IN THE YEARS 1837 - 1838

This illustration of the Society's second diorama depicts Montpelier at the time of the birth of George Dewey, the Vermont admiral who led the United States Navy in the victorious battle of Manila in 1898.

Let's examine the scene, which was carefully reconstructed by the Pitman studio of Cambridge, Massachusetts, from all the photos and references we could supply them. Months of detailed and conscientious work were consumed before they were ready to set up the diorama in the Museum.

There is State Street, and impressive as it was on December 26, 1838, the day of Dewey's birth, the second State House, with its pounded granite walk and copper roof and dome. It was built on the same site of the present State House and with the same general design, but we note that Ceres had not yet appeared. The fence as shown in the original drawing of Ammi B. Young was much different and the problem was to reconstruct it from photographs of the period. The granite which went into the structure was hauled over from the Barre quarries by trains of four horses and two oxen, at a cost of about $134,000. This second State House was gutted by fire after it had been in use only about twenty years.

At the right of the State House is the old Court House, subsequently the Catholic Church, then its rectory and now the Department of Institutions and Corrections. Then there is the old schoolhouse which young George attended, all on one of the oldest streets in Montplier — Court Street — and originally known as Back Street.

Directly opposite the State House is the small shingled house of Dr. Julius Y. Dewey, where Admiral Dewey was born and raised. This has since been moved down the street to its present location, and the new state office building stands on its original site. In front of the house, being congratulated by a neighbor, is the proud father, Dr. Dewey, who is the generally conceded founder of the National Life Insurance Company of Montpelier.

At the left of the State House is first the old Mather house, then the Huse house. Much credit is due Dorman B. E. Kent, R. W. Huse and Mrs. Maurice Dewey for their helpful advice. One photo loaned by Mrs. Dewey is the only one of the Dewey birthplace on its original site, known to be in existence.

The Spring issue of *Vermont Life* is carrying the same illustration and a story of the National Life Insurance Company's century of operation.

BARRE DAILY TIMES ENDORSES OUR DRIVE FOR ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Monday, March 5: "The current issue of the VHS News and Notes (Vermont Historical Society) makes the assertion that it has been a quarter of a century since the organization has received any new funds for endowment purposes. Necessarily, the work of the Vermont Historical Society has been restricted because of the lack of income from new endowment funds. Perhaps that is the reason why the VHS News and Notes is a mere four-page miniature folder instead of being in magazine form and containing articles of historical interest to Vermont. However, the Vermont Historical Society is now making a bid for bequests or gifts of endowment money. Anyone interested should communicate with one of the following members of the endowment committee: Vrest Orton, Weston, chairman; Luman B. Howe, Montpelier, Col. John McDill of Woodstock, Prof. A. W. Peach of Northfield, Mortimer R. Proctor of Proctor and Curtis R. Smith of St. Albans. We believe the interests of the old state of Vermont could be furthered by the wise use of income from an enlarged endowment fund."

We are most grateful to the *Barre Times* and to those of you who have sent in your suggestions. It is good to have such loyal friends.

NEW QUARTERS

For the last month and a half, we have been in the throes of moving into other sections of the building. We now have an office, located where the front offices of the tax department were, and the entire library has been moved out into the other rooms vacated by the tax department and into the basement. The museum is to remain in the one room we originally had and will be entirely redecorated and rearranged.

We have been in seclusion, more or less, and many of your letters have merely been acknowledged, so we feel that with our apologies must go an explanation. At least 30,000 catalogued books, several hundred boxes of collections of manuscripts and museum pieces have been moved by your staff, with the additional help of one man. Except for the museum which will take much more time, we are practically finished.

When you come to Montpelier for the annual meeting in May, you won't believe it. It's too good to be true.

MORRISVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This local society has been in existence about three years, is sponsored by the Morrisville Library and houses in the Library building collections of museum pieces and manuscripts of the region.

Its major continuing project is the erection of markers of historic sites, such as the residence of the Revolutionary Scout Indian Joe and the first settler's home. They are now working with the State Historic Sites Commission, on the possible state designation of the site of the birthplace of U. S. Secretary of the Treasury Leslie M. Shaw.

Credit for this local news item goes to Miss Anna L. Mower of Morrisville.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Up to this point, we have enrolled so many new members each month that limited space in this bulletin did not permit us to list their names. March has not been such a good month for our membership drive; but, still, the month is not yet over. So here they are:

Mrs. Augustus H. Fiske, *Warren, R. I.*
Mr. Bertrand J. Perry, *Norwich*
Miss Sylvia A. Warren, *Williston*
Mr. James A. Lawrence, *Bellflower, Calif.*
Mrs. Benjamin C. McFadden, *Pittsburgh, Pa.*
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bellerose, *Bathesda, Md.*
Mr. Carroll A. Means, *Woodbridge, Conn.*
Mr. Kenneth Reid, *East Dorset*
Mr. Harrison G. Buswell, *Springfield*
Miss Anna Mower, *Morrisville*
Mrs. Ellsworth E. Cady, *Columbus, O.*
Mrs. Jesse Warner, *Salt Lake City, Utah*
Mr. Fred O. Copeland, *Randolph*
Mr. Frederick H. Peters, *So. Hero*
Mr. J. Franklin Crocker, *Milton, Mass.*
Prof. Crane Brinton, *Cambridge, Mass.*
Miss Florence E. Corry, *Montpelier*
Mr. Jay S. Larmon, *Montpelier*
Mr. Francis W. Hamilton, *Brookline, Mass.*
Dr. and Mrs. David Ruml, *Chicago, Ill.*
Mr. Henry T. Bourne, *New Haven, Conn.*
Mr. F. W. Randebrook, *New York, N. Y.*
Mr. Jeffers Richardson, *Springfield, O.*
Mr. Theodore W. Johnson, *Brandon*

Three of these new members were obtained by Mrs. Cora Hawes of Barre and three by W. K. Jordan of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Have your nominations been sent in ? ? ? ? We may yet hit our average monthly increase of 40, with your help.

A RECENT GIFT

There has been presented to the VHS, through Montpelier's City Manager William F. Corry, a typewritten manuscript of an uncompleted history of Montpelier by C. A. G. Jackson, who was editor of the Montpelier Evening Argus in the early years of this century.

The manuscript was forwarded to Mr. Corry by the son of the author, Harold Jackson, of Newark, New Jersey. The history covers the period of Indian occupancy and Montpelier's settlement by Colonel Jacob Davis in 1787, and includes phases of city life through 1912. It is a valuable contribution to the Society's library, being concise and informative, and at the same time most entertaining.

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"SWEET FACTS"

Those of you who have seen our recent cartoons on the maple syrup industry in four of Vermont dailies will recognize the "did-you-know's" we are listing here. They aroused a great deal of comment. Some wrote in wanting to use the entire cartoon on their maple syrup cans this spring, others wanted reproductions for school classrooms and many requested that we publish the entire series in booklet form.

We cannot give you more than just the facts illustrated in the cartoons because of our limited space in *News and Notes*. Since the Vermont newspaper readers liked them so well, we judge that you too may be interested in this Vermont story. And after all, isn't the subject a seasonal one? Now we know spring is here.